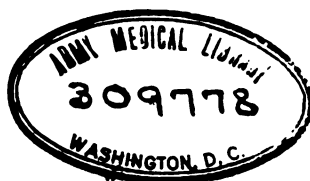


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The book also deals with the legislation relating to Public Health, Education, and Poor Law, including the Local Government Act of 1929. In connection with the last named, the author is quite properly caustic in his comments on the policy of the legislature which de-rates distilleries, and refuses to de-rate hospitals. I think he is justified in being apprehensive at the substitution of block grants for central grants. It puts too much temptation in the way of local authorities, for as long as we have the poor always with us, so long, I fear, shall we also have the perennial local economist, to whom the reduction of local rates is of more importance than the health of the people.

I should like to suggest to Professor Slater that in dealing with this subject he might have laid more stress on the wide difference between the passing of wise and beneficent legislation and the putting of it into force.

He states correctly (if somewhat naïvely), that in 1913 the Local Government Board prohibited the retention of children over the age of three in workhouses, but he fails to draw attention to the fact that as late as 1930 children over that age were still to be found in some workhouses, and worse still, normal, mentally defective, and physically defective children were all kept together.

He had, however, previously explained in his preface, that he laboured under the disqualification of never having served on a board of guardians.

I am glad he refers to the fact that the Joint Committee on Mental Deficiency in its Report (1929) shirks the problem of making local authorities perform effectively the duties imposed on them by Statute. The lack of institutional accommodation for the mentally defective is deplorable, while some local authorities appear to pursue the policy of doing as little as possible for the care of the mentally defective in every way.

There is a pleasantly hopeful tone about *Poverty and the State*. The author is hopeful about the treatment of tuberculosis and venereal disease, the decrease of drunkenness and the care of children, etc. Only the housing problem lags behind and the evils of overcrowding continue. But he believes the work of women in the future will be of far-reaching importance. It is therefore greatly to be hoped that as they advance in political power they will see to it that this problem is dealt with effectively.

In spite of the conversion of Constantine to Christianity, Professor Slater is even hopeful of a gradual return to the social teaching of the Gospels. In this connection, when urging that the interests of labourers should not be subjected to the interests of the squire and the big farmer, he might perhaps have driven home

his point by making mention of the fact that the Founder of Christianity, in order to achieve his object, became, not a landed proprietor, but a carpenter.

Owing to the growth of poverty, the State has gradually been compelled to change its orientation. From being primarily an organization for national defence, it has become primarily an organization for the prevention and mitigation of poverty, and it seems increasingly certain that the success or failure of each political party in power will stand or fall by the acid test of its success or failure in this respect.

The author is to be congratulated on the interesting manner in which he has treated this subject, and the printers on having produced a book of 480 pages without a single misprint.

J. H. MACMICHAEL.

PAMPHLETS

Iodine Supply and the Incidence of Endemic Goitre. J. B. Orr. (Medical Research Council; Special Report Series, No. 154.) London, 1931. Stationery Office. Pp. 18. Price 4d.

THE frequently endemic quality of goitre and cretinism and the alternative explanations of them as either genetic or iodine-deficiency diseases, make this inquiry of interest to eugenicists. The study was a "chemo-geographical" survey of the iodine content of water, certain foods, and the thyroid glands of sheep in several districts of England and Scotland.

The results were inconclusive, and the author makes no attempt to draw "any conclusions at this stage." But he offers the "tentative opinion that, while the data suggest that the iodine supply may be lower in parts of the country where goitre is endemic than in parts, like the north-east of Scotland, which are completely free, the results of this investigation, even taken together with those of previous similar investigations, are not sufficient in themselves to enable us to regard it as proved that deficiency of iodine in the food is definitely correlated with the occurrence of endemic goitre.

"It may be stated that evidence in support of the theory that iodine deficiency is the cause of goitre exists in the studies of urinary excretion of iodine that have been made in Switzerland and Norway. The discussion of this does not, of course, fall within the scope of the present report.

"Hence, in spite of the excellent results which have been obtained in preventing goitre in children by the administration of potassium iodide, the question of whether deficiency of

Iodine is a cause of goitre, and if so, whether it is the sole cause, must remain open."

The Logistic Curve and the Census Count of 1930.

Raymond Pearl and Lowell J. Reed.

(Reprint from *Science*, October 17th, 1930.)

THIS brief addition to the previous interesting studies of these two authors on the biology of population growth compares their original forecast of the population of the United States in 1920 and 1930 with that since revealed by the Census of those years:

		Forecast.	Census.
1920	...	107.4	105.7
1930	...	122.4	122.7 (millions)

They say: "It thus appears that the forecast of the logistic curve (equation (1)) missed the counted population by 16 parts in a thousand in excess in 1920, and by 2.5 parts in a thousand in defect in 1930. . . . The present evidence indicates that the population of the United States during the period 1910-30 continued in its growth along the same logistic curve that it had followed in the period 1790-1910."

PERIODICALS

American Journal of Physical Anthropology

Oct.-Dec. 1930, Vol. XV, No. 1.—The late S. P. Pickering gives a study of the correlation of brain and head measurements, showing that points taken on the crania corresponded closely to the like points on the brains, but varied constantly in one direction. The variation was not due to general compensation as a consequence of regional growth, because the extreme variations did not occur in the cases of extreme brain-measurements. The correlations were naturally best between the brain and internal cranial measurements, but there were favourable correlations between the simple brain and external cranial measurements. The brain is obviously a major factor in controlling the size of the head. English workers who know even a little of Professor Braish's studies of growth will appreciate these conclusions. Cubic capacity of the cranium and volume of the brain were found to be greater in brachycephalic than in dolichocephalic skulls studied.

T. Wingate Todd and B. Tracy in a study of racial features in the Negro cranium make the useful comment that "in problems of the human skull we are not dealing with mutations which are heritable as a stable pattern, but with traits which find expression variously, and of which one general pattern usually appears in the White and another in the Negro. Nevertheless, there is no fundamental distinction. . . ." American Negro material tends to be intermediate between White and African Negro, the latter being best defined in terms of his forehead region. The authors give notes on bone-growth in the skull, studying the parietal and frontal bones first, and then the general effect. It is interesting to note that these authors use a modification of Pycraft's plane, in place of the Frankfort plane, for many purposes. Other

papers in this number are those of R. E. Scammon on ponderal growth of the extremities of the human foetus, and of H. Cummins on Dermatoglyphics in Indians.

H. J. FLEURE.

British Medical Journal

December 20th, 1930.—*Cretinism and Mongolism*.—Dr. W. T. Collier records an example of cretinism and mongolism in the same family. An intelligent woman when she was twenty-seven years old gave birth to a mongol. Eight months later she was delivered of a dead foetus. By her second marriage she first had a normal child and then a cretin.

January 10th, 1931.—*Tuberculosis and Marriage*.—Dr. L. Bernard (*Le Scalpel*, Nov. 8th, 1930) considers that the risk of inheritance of tuberculosis is almost negligible. Infection through the placenta must be very rare. Conjugal infection (10 per cent. in 535,000 families) is not due to recent infection, but to activation of an old infantile lesion, and when it does appear, it is generally some time after the death of the infecting partner. Widows are more likely to be infected in this way than widowers, pointing to distress of mind or of affairs as an important factor. Extra-pulmonary infection is no bar to marriage, with the exception of genital lesions. Each case of pulmonary tuberculosis must be considered on its own merits. Marriage should be forbidden when the tuberculous process is active, but when quiescent marriage may be allowed, although the additional risk of pregnancy must be remembered.

January 24th.—*Familial Incidence of Cancer*.—Dr. Griffith Evans records a family where both parents and five of six children have died of cancer. At a funeral the relatives recalled that

all collaterals who had passed middle life had died of cancer. In another family the mother was the thirteenth member to die of cancer; one child of her four had died of cancer of the stomach, while his daughter had had a breast removed for cancer.

Dr. Lockhart-Mummery (January 31st) states that cancer, when hereditary, generally concerns only one particular organ. Simpler growths such as multiple adenomata of the colon have a marked familial tendency and cancer is liable to supervene on such conditions. Dr. R. J. Ludford, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, makes similar observations.

Dr. Mark Jackson (February 28th) records three brothers who died of malignant disease of the rectum at approximately the same age, while a grandson of one of these died at nineteen years of age from sarcoma of the lung.

February 14th.—Familial Influence in Gastric Function.—Dr. Apperly and Miss Joan Norris, from the University of Melbourne, give test meal charts of 31 families, comprising 81 individuals. For the purposes of classification they use three criteria—emptying time, shape of acid curve, and acidity. In 10 families of 29 individuals the charts are similar in all three criteria. In 6 families of 14 individuals the similarity is in two criteria. In 5 families of 15 individuals, in one criterion. Six families of 20 individuals show no or few resemblances. The remainder were 4 families of 8 individuals of parent and child—in 3 of which there were one or two similarities.

The characteristics chosen depend largely on the tonus and activity of the gastric musculature and on certain chemical characteristics of the blood. These factors bear relationship to the ratio of pulmonary surface to body weight, and therefore ultimately to the build of the body and to constitution generally.

A. A. E. NEWTH.

Difesa Sociale

September 1930.—Per l'educazione, alla paternità. By I. Wackmann.—The writer points out that in various countries attention has been for several years directed to the training of the mother in her duties towards her offspring, while the duties of the father have been relatively neglected. The tendency has been to regard the father's part as primarily and essentially that of providing the means of subsistence for the family.

At the present time in the Press of England, America, and Germany, the function of the father is receiving more attention, while in other countries this matter is not receiving the attention which it might legitimately command. The father should be capable of taking account

of defects in his offspring, study their physical and mental qualities, cultivate a constant daily interest in the life of the child. The question of the responsibility of the father in the formation of the character of the children is much debated, and training in this department is being provided in England, Germany, and Switzerland. In the Latin countries attention is practically confined to the training of the mother, and this duty is discharged by various active and efficient societies. The writer of this article finds that in Italy the feeling prevails that such duties are beneath the dignity of the father, but he points out that circumstances inevitably arise where the father's help is necessary, and urges that this subject should receive more study than it has hitherto received. The *Eugenics Society* is doing good work in promoting instruction in preparation for marriage.

J. A. LINDSAY.

Genetics

March 1931, Vol. XVI, No. 2.—More than half of this number, pp. 97-159, is occupied by Professor Sewall Wright's long paper on *Evolution in Mendelian populations*. The mathematical consequences of Mendelian inheritance are here developed in a number of separate investigations, which together form a valuable collection of old and new material, brought together under a common notation. Professor Wright was among the first in the United States to appreciate the importance for evolutionary theory of researches of this kind, which have developed independently in this country, and later in Germany. The results are in striking contrast to the opinions early formed, and tenaciously adhered to by several early writers on Mendelism, in its bearing on evolution. Professor Wright sums up this aspect in the words:

"The conclusion seems warranted that the enormous recent additions to knowledge of heredity have merely strengthened the general conception of the evolutionary process reached by Darwin in his exhaustive analysis of the data available seventy years ago."

Aside from the scientific conclusions which the independent contributions of workers in several different countries have now set on a firm foundation, Professor Wright makes some philosophical observations on the nature of the evolutionary process, which are of great interest, although necessarily more personal and subjective:

"Evolution as a process of cumulative change depends on a proper balance of the conditions, which, at each level of organization—gene, chromosome, cell, individual,

local race—make for genetic homogeneity or genetic heterogeneity of the species. While the basic factor of change—the infrequent, fortuitous, usually more or less injurious gene mutations, in themselves, appear to furnish an inadequate basis for evolution, the mechanism of cell division, with its occasional aberrations, and of nuclear fusion (at fertilization) followed at some time by reduction make it possible for a relatively small number of not too injurious mutations to provide an extensive field of actual variations.”

One of the most important factors on which this balance depends, according to Professor Wright, is size of population. He points out that in very small populations the effect of selection is much reduced, so that the chances of individual survival must lead to the occasional establishment of deleterious mutations, with consequent degeneration and extinction. The reviewer is convinced of the reality of this effect, though the fact that the human breeder working with not very large populations can make substantial progress by the exercise of stringent selection, shows that it is possible to over-emphasize its importance. On the other hand Professor Wright considers that:

“In too large a freely interbreeding population . . . there is great variability, but such a close approach to complete equilibrium of all gene frequencies that there is no evolution under static conditions.”

He therefore argues that the subdivision of species into partially isolated local races of small size is an important condition not merely, as is obvious, for fission into distinct species, but for progressive evolution. This conclusion is much more debatable, for even under static conditions, unless it is postulated that the organism is as well adapted as it could possibly be (in which case, obviously, evolutionary improvement is impossible), the equilibrium will be broken by the occurrence of any favourable mutation, of which a steady stream will doubtless occur in one or other of the very numerous individuals produced in each generation. The advantage of the large populations in picking up mutations of excessively low mutation rate seems to be overlooked, possibly because the author has throughout his argument taken as the standard of mutation rate, such values as are found in the best known loci in *Drosophila*, mutations which are well known probably only because their mutation rate is high. Moreover, static conditions in the evolutionary sense certainly do not occur, for, apart from geological and climatological changes, the evolutionary progress of associated organisms ensures that

the organic environment shall be continually changing.

R. A. FISHER.

Journal of Genetics

December 1930, Vol. XXIII, No. 3.—*Studies on the Creeper Fowl. I. Genetics.* By W. Landauer and L. C. Dunn.—In this paper it is shown that creepers obtained from America, Germany, Scotland, and the Marquesa Islands all were affected by the same mutation, and were all heterozygotes. Breeding tests give a 1:1 ratio when creeper is mated to normal, and a 2:1 ratio from creeper by creeper. The mutant is therefore a visible lethal, or, as they are sometimes called, a ‘dominant’ lethal. Death of the homozygotes occurs generally at the fourth day of incubation, though a small proportion of phokomelic embryos, which survive to the last week before hatching, are also interpreted as homozygotes. A perceptible proportion even of the heterozygotes fail to hatch, the mutation being thus slightly semi-lethal even when heterozygous.

The Finger Prints of Twins. By H. H. Newman.—This is a study of the finger prints of fifty pairs of human twins diagnosed as ‘identical,’ or one-egg, twins, and fifty pairs diagnosed as ‘fraternal.’ By counting the friction ridges in the prints it was found that the coefficient of correlation between identical twins is as high as .95, while that between fraternal twins is only .46. These values are in good agreement with those obtained by other workers for metrical characters. Considerable attention is paid to apparent symmetry reversals, though the data provided seem to indicate that this is not a feature of twins of either sort. The results for identical twins are, however, closely like those obtained by the same author for scute pattern in quadruplet armadillos.

Genetics and Cytology of the tetraploid form of Primula sinensis. By A. S. Sömme.—In recent years a considerable amount of genetic work has been devoted at Merton to the tetraploid forms of *Primula*, in which the chromatin content is double that ordinarily found. Their importance lies in the light which their genetic behaviour may throw upon the mechanism of segregation. The results presented agree with Blakeslee’s findings with tetraploids in the Jimson weed, that segregation takes place at random between the four homologous chromosomes.

Tetraploid material affords special opportunities for the study of dominance, for in addition to the genotype *AAaa* corresponding to the diploid heterozygote, two other genotypes of intermediate composition, namely *AAAA* and *AAAA* can be produced. In six genes out of the seven studied the balanced heterozygote *AAaa*

manifested the same characters as the diploid heterozygote, the seventh gene, which determines the distinction between the forms *Sinensis* and *Stellata* being so variable as to make classification impossible. It was therefore excluded. In two cases *Aaaa* showed the dominant character, and in four it was intermediate and strongly variable. It would seem that dominance is not generally developed much more strongly than is needed to ensure the normal appearance in the diploid heterozygote.

February 1931, Vol. XXIV, No. 1.—All the contributions to this number are concerned with botanical material studied at the John Innes Horticultural Institution at Merton. The only paper which calls for special notice here is that by De Winton and Haldane on "Linkage in the tetraploid *Primula sinensis*" (pp. 121-44), which may be read in conjunction with Darlington's cytological observations on the same species (pp. 65-96). Linkage in tetraploids involves a somewhat complicated theoretical discussion, since there are not two, but nineteen, types of double heterozygotes possible, and of these nine give gametic series distinguishable in a single generation. These are divided into seven different types of gametic series, and the theoretical expectation for these, available for the interpretation of frequencies obtained either by selfing or by backcrossing to the tetraploid double recessive, are worked out.

The experimental data, of which very extensive counts have been obtained, agree on the whole well with the view that (i) linkage intensity is the same in the tetraploid as in the diploid plant, with the exception that whereas in diploids linkage is closer in the female than in the male, in tetraploids it is nearly or quite the same in the production of ovules as in the production of pollen; (ii) that crossing-over in the two pairs of homologous chromosomes is independent; (iii) that chromosomes after pairing do not enter into the same gamete, and (iv) that any one chromosome rarely or never makes interchange with more than one other chromosome of the set. These conclusions, though apparently not universally true in polyploids, greatly simplify the theory as applied to *Primula*.

R. A. FISHER.

Mental Hygiene

October 1930, Vol. XIV, Part 4.—*The prevalence of mental disease among Jews.* By Benjamin Malzberg.—Most previous writers on this subject have concluded or assumed that there is a higher incidence of insanity among Jews than among non-Jews. In recent years, however, students of the psychology of Jews have at least

felt that it was time that the question was re-investigated. Most of the available statistics collected by Dr. M. Flahberg in his book *The Jews*, and in his articles on nervous and mental diseases in the *Jewish Encyclopedia*, are out of date, and as Malzberg shows, there are considerable doubts as to their validity. The present article, giving the results of a careful investigation carried out in the State of New York for the years 1914 to 1929 and in New York City for the year 1925, is therefore very welcome.

The conclusions reached are diametrically opposed to those usually held. Malzberg estimates, for example, that the Jews of New York City have a rate of first admissions to hospitals for mental disease of only 50 to 55 per cent. of that among non-Jews, and that in every important psychosis the Jews have lower rates. This is true, although the Jewish first admissions are younger than the non-Jewish first admissions. In view of the fact that previous investigators have concluded that Jews in Italy, Germany, Russia, Denmark, and New York are from two to four times as liable to mental disease as non-Jews, Malzberg's results are very striking.

The study is particularly valuable and interesting because it deals not only with the general question, but also with the relative incidence of insanity among the sexes of both populations, and with the relative incidence of different kinds of insanity. The rates of first admissions to mental hospitals are found to be higher for males than for females both among Jews and non-Jews, but the non-Jewish females have a higher rate than the Jewish males. Among the qualitative differences which Malzberg found, it is interesting to note that the "non-Jewish insane have higher percentages in senility, cerebral arteriosclerosis, and alcoholism. The Jewish insane have higher percentages in the manic-depressive psychoses and in dementia præcox. The percentages are practically the same in general paralysis."

A. G. HUGHES.

La Race et les Mœurs

December 1930, No. 2.—It is with a mixture of interest and suspicion that one views the appearance of a new journal. The interest is heightened when one finds among the sub-titles the word "eugenics"; the suspicion is increased when one finds this word to be sandwiched between "love," "procreation," "nudity," and "prostitution." There are two ways of treating these latter subjects; the way which will be of value to the eugenist and the way which will be of pecuniary advantage to the publishers of the journal. It is probably

with this latter end in view that the text has been garnished with alluringly illustrated 'funny stories.' Those who wish to subscribe are assured that this journal will be sent under a sealed cover.

PETER GRAY.

Rivista Italiana di Statistici

October-December, 1930, Anno II, No. 4.—The only article in this issue which is of any interest to the eugenicist, is that in which the editor (Professor Felice Vinci) demonstrates clearly the relation between the political condition of a country and the condition of the population.

During the past few years the condition of Italy has become further and further improved, an improvement not only reflected in the increased marriage rate, but also in the notable increase in the birth rate per marriage. The use of the word "improved" is not intended either by the author, or by the reviewer, to provoke a discussion of the political régime; it is sufficient to point out, as does Professor Vinci, that every agricultural production has increased from 10 per cent. (oils) to 80 per cent. (legumes) over the production of the year 1928.

It is satisfactory to notice how closely the production of children follows on the production of food.

PETER GRAY.

The Shield

January 1931, Vol. VII, No. 1.—*The Scandal of the Women's Court in New York City.* By Alison Neilans.—This is an account of the corruption, perjury, and blackmail which have rotted the police, bar, and even the magistracy attached to this "prostitution court." Instead of a "rescue agency," as it was once called, the court seems to have become an institution for the oppression of prostitutes, real or accused, in defenceless circumstances.

With this number of the journal we received a reprint, even more interesting, from the issue of January 1930—*Results of Vice Suppression in New York City.* It constitutes a remarkable exposure of the results of enforcing morality by law. It is unnecessary to remark that alcohol is forbidden in that city, but English readers may not know that prostitution is also illegal. This is the result of these two laws.

"Street soliciting by prostitutes is so rare that it may be considered as practically negligible," but "a new and unforeseen thing" has occurred.

"There has sprung up 'a mushroom growth of night clubs and speakeasies . . . which have furnished commercialised prostitution with a long wanted place and an opportunity for its

illicit operations.' . . . These night clubs and speakeasies 'provide at the present time the greatest source for the making of new prostitutes.' . . . The reports show that clandestine 'clubs' and speakeasies are steadily permeating every section of the city. . . . We find speakeasy houses of prostitution which now call their inmates 'hostesses.'"

Employment agencies provide the necessary girls, and "68 per cent. of the agencies investigated may be said to be 'shady,' and 40 per cent. of the total are definitely engaged in the traffic."

The summary of the results runs: "Women soliciting 'for immoral purposes' have been driven off the streets. Instead of the veiled and furtive invitation from an occasional prostitute, 'younger men, frequently of small means,' are subjected to active solicitation by taxi-drivers, waiters, porters and hotel pages, who paint glowing pictures of possible illicit pleasures with attractive young women. This is far more dangerous and alluring than any casual street accostation by obvious street-walkers. So much for the supposed protection of young men from sexual temptation. What has been the effect on young women?"

"A new form of traffic in young women has arisen. Decent girls, out-of-work through industrial depression in the mills, and anxiously seeking respectable employment as waitresses and club-hostesses, and others earning an honest living as dancers and paid entertainers, have to obtain their jobs through syndicated employment agencies who place them in situations which in many instances they can only retain by prostituting themselves."

Readers will note that this is the report of trained investigators who know their city, and that the illegal 'speakeasies' seem almost as common as the illegal prostitutes.

R. M.

South-African Journal of Science

November 1930, Vol. XXVII.—This volume, which consists of the Report of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science (Caledon Meeting, 1930), contains no papers of direct bearing on eugenics; but there are two communications whose information may prove germane to social problems.

Professor H. B. Fantham and Dr. Annie Porter, in *Some Further Cases of Physical Inheritance and Racial Admixture observed in South Africa*, give details of a number of human pedigrees which they have collected. Among the physical characteristics noted are brachydactyly, supernumerary digits, and white forelock, both in Europeans and Natives. The racial admixtures described are very complex

and include not only Dutch-Native crosses, but such a peculiarity as a Chinese-Norwegian-Hottentot hybrid. These are all well worth putting on record; the authors, however, might have added to the clarity of their paper by giving schematic tables of some of their pedigrees, though, it must be admitted, in some of the cases this might have been difficult.

Mr. I. D. MacCrone, in *Psychological Factors affecting the Attitude of White to Black in South Africa*, contributes an interesting paper which deals with the colour question from an

unusual angle. Without attempting to offer a definite explanation of the well-known aversion of Whites from Blacks, he puts forward many valuable suggestions; he also points out the curious, and somewhat paradoxical, fact that there is in addition a little understood sexual attraction between the two. This is exemplified in the employment throughout the ages of negresses in brothels and, in a milder degree, in the present popular taste for jazz music and dancing of negro origin.

C. C. HENTSCHEL.



A SPECIAL LIBRARY OFFER

PHYSIOLOGICAL ZOOLOGY

Complete files of *Physiological Zoology*, comprising Volumes I, II, and III and a subscription to Volume IV during 1931, are offered to foreign libraries at the price of \$22.50 until April, 1931. This offer represents a saving of \$7.50, twenty-five per cent of the regular purchase price.

Physiological Zoology was established by the Department of Zoology at the University of Chicago in January, 1928, to fill the need of biologists for authentic, current data of zoological investigation. The journal, which has completed its third year of publication, has become firmly established as an indispensable part of laboratory and library equipment for zoologists in American and foreign colleges; to laymen interested in the progress of the science it has become no less a valuable periodical.

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PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Mention of books on this page does not preclude their further notice.

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